

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **National Park Service**

#### **Notice of Inventory Completion of Native American Human Remains in the Possession of the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park, Vernal UT**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior

**ACTION:** Notice

---

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d), of the completion of an inventory of human remains in the possession of the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park, Vernal UT.

In May, 1953, a Ms. Wadel (or Wadell) donated a single cranium to the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park. Writing on the occipital vault reads: "skull of Sioux Chief Gall. Age 99 years and 7 months. Died 1879 at Poplar, Montana, then the Ft. Peck Military Post. He surrendered to General Miles."

A detailed inventory and assessment of this human cranium has been made by Utah Field House professional curatorial staff and specialists in physical anthropology, forensic anthropology, and prehistoric archaeology in consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council. Osteometric and forensic analyses by Dr. George Gill and Dr. Michael Charney established that the cranium is siouan in configuration. Many of the details written on the skull are at variance with generally acknowledged dates and locations of Chief Gall's life. However, a photographic superimposition of the skull with known photographs of Hunkpapa Chief Gall reveals a striking similarity in form.

Contact with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council and the family of Gall's descendants was initiated in June 1991. On October 4, 1991, a grave located in the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Cemetery, on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation and said to be the burial site of Chief Gall was exhumed. Family members, a mortician, a doctor, and the South Dakota State Anthropologist, witnessed the excavation. The grave appeared to have not been previously disturbed. A shattered cranium in the grave yielded no corroborating measurements. The lineal descendants of Chief Gall are satisfied that the remains in the grave are of their ancestor.

The Standing Rock Tribal Council acknowledges the lineal descendants decision on the identity of the cranium. Following the decision by Gall's lineal descendants, broader consultation was initiated with the Fort Belknap Community Council, the Prairie Island Community Council, the Shakopee Sioux Community Council, the Upper Sioux Board of Trustees, the Lower Sioux Indian Community Council, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Executive Committee, the Santee Sioux Tribal Council, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Council, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council, the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council, the Oglala Sioux Tribe,

the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council, and the Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims.

Based on the above mentioned information, officials of the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park have determined pursuant to 25 U.S.C. (2) that there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between this cranium and the Standing Rock Tribe.

This notice has been sent to lineal descendants of Chief Gall and to officials of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, the Fort Belknap Community Council, the Prairie Island Community Council, the Shakopee Sioux Community Council, the Upper Sioux Board of Trustees, the Lower Sioux Indian Community Council, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Executive Committee, the Santee Sioux Tribal Council, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Council, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council, the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council, and the Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee. Individuals or representatives of any other indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these human remains should contact Dr. Sue Ann Bilbey, Curator, Utah Field House of Natural History State Park, 235 East Main, Vernal UT 84078, telephone (801)789-3799 on or before October 11, 1995. Repatriation of the cranium to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: September 1, 1995

Francis P. McManamon

Departmental Consulting Archeologist

Chief, Archeological Assistance Division

[FR Doc. 95-22375; Filed 09-8-95; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-70-F**